
LESSON 16

SERVICE DOCTRINE: UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Introduction

Purpose	The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand the basic aerospace doctrine of the U.S. Air Force.
Importance of the Study	This lesson presents an overview of Air Force doctrine. The U.S. will continue to train and fight as a joint team. Therefore, it is imperative that you understand the operational doctrine of the other services so you may function more effectively in a joint environment.
Relationship to Other Lessons	This lesson complements lessons 13, 14, and 15. It provides an overview of Air Force doctrine and describes how this doctrine relates to the operational level of war and the other services.
Background	This lesson introduces the basic aerospace doctrine of the Air Force. It presents basic aerospace roles and missions, the tenets of aerospace power, and explains how the Air Force expects to function at the operational level of war.
Study Time	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 1.5 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

Service and Joint Doctrine	Summarize the relationship between Air Force service doctrine and joint doctrine. [JPME Area 2d]
Air Force Tenets	Identify and discuss the Air Force's tenets of aerospace power.
Aerospace Forces at Operational Level	Summarize the Air Force's employment of aerospace forces at the operational level of war.
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	2/d/.5

Air Force Doctrine

Air Power

The technology of the 20th century has allowed air power to become a key element in the success of our national military objectives. Although all U.S. Armed Services possess aviation assets, the Air Force controls a significant amount of our national air assets. As the Gulf War demonstrated, it is important for Marines to be familiar with the potential uses of air power and the Marine and Air Force concepts on the employment of air power.

Tenets of Air Power

According to Air Force doctrine, the tenets of air power include

- Centralized control and decentralized execution
 - Flexibility and versatility
 - Synergistic effects
 - Unique suitability to persistent operations
 - Operations that must achieve concentration of purpose
 - Operations that must be prioritized
 - Operations that must be balanced
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Required Reading

***Joint Pub
Readings***

AFDD 1, *Air Force Basic Doctrine* (1997). Read pp. 1-9 and 21-27. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. I (8800), pp. 121 to 136. This reading presents the basic tenets of Air Force doctrine.

Issues For Consideration

Aerospace Roles and Missions	Summarize aerospace roles and missions in terms of Air Force doctrine and joint doctrine and the relationship between them.
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Tenets of Aerospace Power	Describe the tenets of aerospace power.
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Essence of Aerospace Operational Art	Summarize the essence of aerospace operational art.
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